Equal Rights

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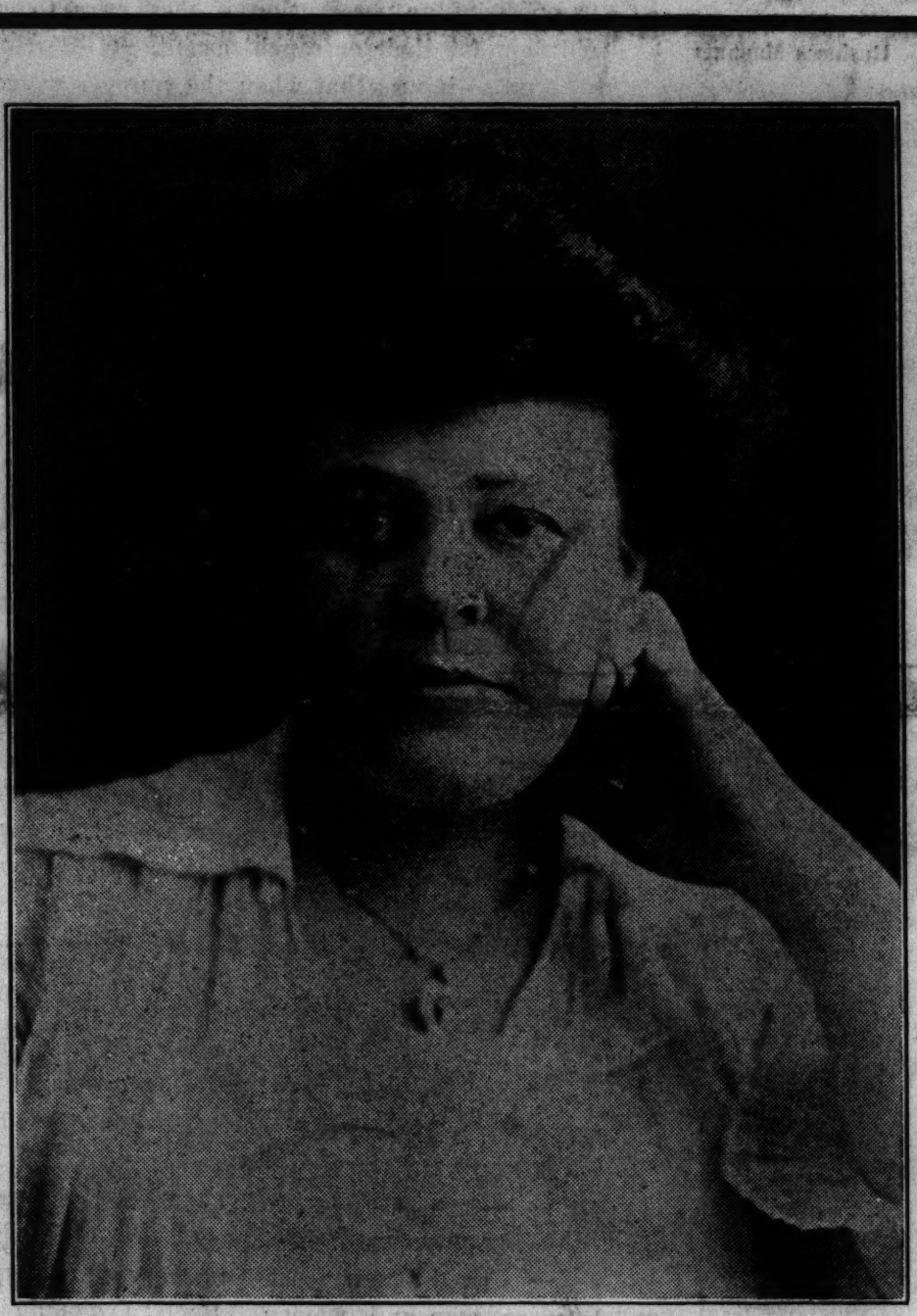

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont

President of the National Woman's Party since its inception, who died at her home in Paris, France, on January 26. Mrs. Belmont was an outstanding figure in the international Feminist movement, and until the time of her death collaborated with Alice Paul in the work at Geneva. Mrs. Belmont will be long remembered and greatly mourned by women the world over.

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Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House January 11, 1932, by Representative Louis Ludlow, Indiana.

We Must Not Fail Her

THERE is not a woman living today who is not nearer the beauties and benefits of freedom because of Mrs. Belmont. In the record of the long, tragic struggle for women's freedom Mrs. Belmont has a shining place. She has made history. Women of the future will tell lovingly and with pride how Mrs. Belmont was one of those who refired the woman movement of her country at a crucial moment. Deeply stirred by the valiant struggle and heroic sacrifices which English women under the leadership of Emmeline Pankhurst were making to secure the vote, Mrs. Belmont almost alone foresaw that American women would have to wage the same militant battle and endure similar persecution if they were to end the three-quarters' century old fight for their enfranchisement.

And so it was that when the younger women of America determined that this task should not be passed on to another generation of women, she joined eagerly with those women, many of whom were just emerging from university halls, to finish this task. Alice Paul was the leader of these young women. Mrs. Belmont brought to this young and then struggling group her wholesome impatience, her righteous indignation, her prestige, her treasure. Of the conservative suffrage leaders she was the only outstanding woman with the courage, the wit and the impulse to abandon begging and pleading for rights with unwilling and unregenerate political leaders.

PAST fifty, she found the young none too "radical" for her. In fact, the young often had the greatest difficulty in keeping the political pace which she was eager to travel. No fear of untrodden paths beset with imaginary phantoms alarmed her. Only inaction distressed her. She was the righteous enemy of fruitless talk, endless committee meetings, unlovely attempts to prove women's worth. Action, always action, was her guiding genius. She had no patience with those who would promise before they had the right to vote what they would do with it when they got it. This right must come to women, no matter what they did with it; whether they used it well or ill was not the issue. The right of women to govern their own lives and to help direct with men the life of the community could not be questioned.

Few indeed are the precious ones who become more impatient of injustices as they grow older. Surveying the wide world, one may count them on the fingers of one hand. Mrs. Belmont was one of these precious few.

MEN honor those who have worked for the liberation of mankind. And so we women today, sad of heart that we have lost our beloved comrade from our immediate midst, honor a valiant woman who worked for the liberation of womankind, and thus for the liberation of all humankind. It is still difficult for some to realize that the woman who, like Mrs. Belmont, tries to lift the status of her sex, is as much the friend of men as of women. Such a woman is keenly sensitive to the countless antagonisms and cruel barriers which society has allowed to be erected to the impoverishment of the relations between men and women. Such a woman is eager to transform these antagonisms into co-operation between men and women in all departments of life. She is a far more creative friend to men than the woman who follows the too generally applauded path of working for the selfish projects and dreams of men. Mrs. Belmont cared enough to make this world a place in which men and women might love one another and work together to their mutual happiness in decent beauty and dignity, to give more than a third of a century of undivided, unwavering devotion.

We are the gainers from this devotion, as is all mankind which will come after us. Our comrade knew that wherever men and women go, whether toward sorrow and distress or toward happiness and the full creative life, they must go together. We must not fail her in the consummation of the tasks which she began.

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N.Y. Tel. 137

Mrs. Belmont Dies at Paris Home

UNFLINCHING in her demand that every woman must be permitted to grow to her full stature, Alva E. Belmont, who died at her Paris home on January 26, will forever remain a valiant figure in the annals of feminism. In every country in the world feminists mourn her passing and at the house in Washington, D. C., that bears her name, the flag flies at half mast in token of the sorrow in the hearts of her followers.

MRS. O. H. P. BELMONT, late President of the National Woman's Party, At her Chateau d'Augerville-la-Riviere, France

Daughter of Phoebe Ann and Murray Forbes Smith, Mrs. Belmont was born in Mobile, Alabama, January 17, 1853. Mr. Smith was a wealthy cotton exporter and his household was ordered in the luxurious manner typical of the great families of the South before the war.

The child, Alva, was educated at home during her earliest years and it is difficult there to find the roots of her later feminism. She was surrounded by servants and governesses, dressed in Paris frocks which she did not like and nurtured in the idea that a brilliant social career was the mecca of womanhood. Later she was taken to France where she completed her education.

As a debutante she was feted in New York and in 1874 she married William K. Vanderbilt. When she first met her future husband at her father's home she was said to be the prettiest girl in Mobile.

By her marriage to Mr. Vanderbilt, she was joined to a family whose name was a synonym for wealth.

Her subsequent leadership of New York society developed and perfected the qualities of initiative, independence, and executive genius, which were later to be transferred from the narrow social sphere to the great field of international Feminism. She showed, then as well as later, a fine sense of dramatic values, a capacity for detail and a mastery of organization, which never deserted her. Her manifold interests came to converge upon the determination to give women Equal Rights with men in every sphere. She was the first woman in America to obtain a divorce from a prominent man, and her poise and valor in meeting the ensuing turmoil were notable. Perhaps in this experience were the roots of her subsequent efforts to remove discrimination against women. In any event, her first recognition of herself as a Feminist came years later at a tea in a friend's house, when she heard a suffrage talk and realized, on the moment, with the magnificent capacity for instantaneous decisions, which was one of her leading characteristics, that on the progress of women depends the progress of civilization.

She married Oliver H. P. Belmont in 1896.

Mrs. Belmont was actively interested in architecture, and was a member of the American Institute of Architecture. Her homes—Marble House, in Newport; Port Washington, Long Island; her villa on the Riviere; her fourteenth-century chateau in d'Augerville, which was the home of Joan of Arc's lawyer; and her beautiful Paris house — are internationally famous.

Just as Mrs. Belmont was one of the first women in the country to visualize the importance of securing suffrage by national amendment rather than by the slow process of obtaining the vote State by State, so she was later a pioneer in international Feminism, advocating an Equal Rights treaty to be ratified by every nation of the world. When the National Woman's Party, centering upon Federal suffrage was formed, Mrs. Belmont as its president demonstrated her generalship. She was, above all, past-mistress of strategy. She contributed, moreover, in addition to sagacious counsel, hundreds of thousands of dollars to educate the nation to suffrage. Her gifts to the Woman's Party were likewise munificent.

Mrs. Belmont's three children are William K. and Harold S. Vanderbilt, and Mme. Jacques Balsan, who was at her mother's bedside when she died. It was to Mme. Balsan that numberless messages of sympathy were directed by Feminists throughout the world when the wires flashed the news that Mrs. Belmont was dead. Among these were messages from Alice Paul and from the National Woman's Party.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 28, at 11 A. M., at the American Cathedral in Paris when Alice Paul and Emily Smith represented the National Woman's Party. As Mrs. Belmont desired to be buried in the United States the body was then placed on the S. S. Berengaria, bound for New York, and a second service will be held in New York City about February 12, after which interment will be made in Woodlawn Cemetery.

After the services in Paris Miss Paul sailed on the S. S. Samaria to be present at the funeral in New York.

Florence Bayard Hilles, national chairman of the Party, met informally with other members of the Council on January 28 at the headquarters donated by Mrs. Belmont to discuss plans of the Party in connection with the funeral services. After the meeting Mrs. Hilles issued the following statement:

"Mrs. Belmont stood in the forefront of the Feminist movement. Her valiant assistance in the fight for equal suffrage is well known to all suffrage workers both State and national. Her courage and encouragement in continuing the struggle for Equal Rights for men and women has been outstanding. Not only in this country, but throughout the civilized world, all true Feminists mourn her loss and particularly the members of the National Woman's Party to whom she was both president and friend."

Members of the Woman's Party who find it possible to attend the funeral services in New York will please communicate immediately with Ruth Taunton, Alva Belmont House, Washington, D. C., indicating the State Branch to which they belong. Miss Taunton is arranging State delegations to attend the rites and accompany the casket to the grave.

A beautiful floral design in purple, white and gold will be the last tribute of the Woman's Party to their late leader.

Government Workers to Hold Mass Meeting

DO women have a right to paid employment?

Secretary of Labor William N. Doak will be one of the speakers at a mass meeting announced for Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, February 5, at the Masonic Auditorium, 13th and New York Avenue, Washington, D. C., sponsored by the Government Workers' Council of the National Woman's Party. The Party takes the stand that the right to vote in a country where you have not the right to paid employment is a farce.

The mass meeting is being called for the purpose of providing powerful answers of prominent people to the hysterical efforts of the thoughtless to force women out of employment temporarily, and of the selfish who would like to force them out permanently.

Reasons why neither the thoughtless nor the selfish will find smooth sailing in pushing women back into the unhappy state of economic dependence and mental atrophy will also be set forth at the mass meeting by Eleanor Patterson, editor-in-chief of the Washington *Herald;* Jessie Dell, United States Civil Service Commissioner; Representative Louis Ludlow of Indiana; Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, president of the District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs; and Maud Younger, congressional chairman of the Party. Senator Hiram Bingham of Connecticut, who has led this fight on the floor of the Senate, will be a guest on the platform.

The immediate objective of the Government Workers' Council is to delete the married persons' clause from the Economy Act, which has been operating to throw women out of their jobs; and to advance the work on the Equal Rights Amendment as women's only permanent safeguard against legal discrimination.

The mass meeting on February 5 is open to the public without charge.

Women's Organizations Enter Protest

TWENTY representatives of New York business women's organizations met at dinner at the Therese Worthington Grant restaurant, New York City, on Friday, January 20, to discuss action on the proposed 44-hour week and minimum wage legislation for women. The National Woman's Party, which in addition to its industrial council has a large number of business women in its membership, was represented by Margaret C. Williams, Jane Norman Smith and Mildred Palmer.

In order to release a statement as early as possible regarding the position of the organizations present with regard to special labor legislation for women now before the legislature and the proposed 44-hour week and minimum wage laws, a committee was appointed to draft a letter to Governor Lehman and members of the legislature. Many other organizations that are on record against special labor laws for women are expected to join in a later protest.

The letter, sent out on January 30, follows:

"To the Governor of the State of New York and Members of the Legislature:

"The undersigned organizations concede that it is most deplorable that during the present financial crisis wages and hours standards which had come to be regarded as economically sound and advantageous to all workers have been disregarded to a great extent in many industries.

"In spite of this regrettable situation, we believe that any hysterical attempt on the part of State labor organizations and welfare groups to remedy the situation through the passage of inflexible and mandatory legislation, such as the proposed 44-hour week and minimum wage laws for women, aimed to regulate the working hours and wages of women without touching those of men, is unscientific and unsound and a grave threat against the opportunities of women to secure or retain well-paid work or advancement to higher-paid positions in business and industry.

"Abundant testimony has come from other States having special restrictive legislation for women that such legislation cannot be enforced. The 48-hour week law is not being enforced to any extent in New York according to public statements made by sponsors of the law. Why, then, should more legislation of this type be placed upon the statute books of this State?

"California and Massachusetts may be cited as examples of the unfortunate effects of minimum wage legislation for women.

"California places responsibility of fixing minimum wages for women and minors in the hands of an industrial commission, the awards of which are mandatory. Women in California are finding it almost impossible to obtain employment in many lines which they formerly filled because of the fact that thousands of men are willing to work for less than the $16.00 minimum wage fixed by law. The situation has become so serious that the industrial commission has been forced to establish a new classification under which women may be employed as apprentices in certain work with a minimum scale of $9.00 per week. According to Sarah Hagan, a member of the California State Labor Council, the result has been that 'experienced women are forced to accept positions as "learners" at this low rate of pay in order to obtain any work at all.' Indeed, the law is working so badly in California that the industrial commission is meeting this month to discuss the advisability of reducing the $16.00 minimum wage for women.

"You are doubtless aware of the action of the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission in ordering Harvard University to increase the wages of its scrub-women a few cents an hour. The women were discharged and replaced by men.

"May we remind you that the United States Supreme Court has declared a minimum wage law for women unconstitutional and that in discussing the minimum wage law for women in the District of Columbia in 1923, the United States Supreme Court said:

> "'We cannot accept the doctrine that women of mature age, sui juris, require or may be subjected to restrictions upon their liberty of contract which could not lawfully be imposed in the case of men under similar circumstances. To do so would be to ignore all the implications to be drawn from the present day trend of legislation, as well as that of common thought and usage, by which woman is accorded emancipation from the old doctrine that she must be given special protection or be subjected to special restraint in her contractual and civil relationship.' (Adkins vs. Children's Hospital, 261 U. S. 525, 1923.)

"We are not in favor of long hours and low wages for workers. On the other hand, we are convinced that the arbitrary establishment of legal standards of hours and wages applying to women, but not to men, is a great handicap to women wage earners.

"Such legislation, in which adult women are linked with children, perpetuates the idea that women are a class apart in industry, who are only to be allowed to work at special hours, under special supervision, and subject to governmental regulations, and creates the impression that women are essentially inferior as economic units.

"We take no stand on whether or not legislation is the best method to be used to secure improved hours or wages for workers, but if legislation is considered desirable, it should apply to the nature of the work and not to the sex of the worker.

"Therefore, we ask for the amendment of the proposed 44-hour week and minimum wage legislation and any other special restrictive legislation for women before the legislature, to apply to all workers, men and women alike. If that is not done, we ask for its defeat.

"Respectfully,

"NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS,
Grace L. B. Milligan, *President.*

"NEW YORK LEAGUE OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN,
Teresa Thompson Speed, *President.*

"NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, NEW YORK STATE BRANCH,
Anne Harbottle Whittic, *Chairman.*

"NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS,
Olive Stott Gabriel, *President.*

"AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF CIVIL SERVICE WOMEN, NEW YORK CHAPTER,
Anna W. Hochfelder, *President.*

"BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Amy Wren, *President.*

"BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK STATE,
Lois Pierce Hughes, *Temp. Chairman.*

"WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LEAGUE,
Ella M. Sherwin, *Secretary.*

"NATIONAL WOMEN'S REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION,
Ida Horowitz, *President.*

"New York, January 30, 1933."

Wage Laws Result in Unemployment

By Jane Norman Smith

THE movement for minimum wage legislation for women and the cutting of their hours is said by protectionists to be now under way in twelve States, with the object of having such legislation adopted in as many States as possible, thus giving it a national character.

Other issues of EQUAL RIGHTS have contained arguments of the Woman's Party against special laws to regulate the hours of adult women, and subsequent numbers will discuss 1933 proposals. The minimum wage will be dealt with here.

Comparatively few States have established a minimum wage law for women. Of these, two may be taken as examples of the hardship imposed upon women by such a law.

California places responsibility of fixing minimum wages for women and minors in the hands of the industrial commission, the awards of which are mandatory.

A BUSINESS woman of California writes: "The $16 minimum wage is not enforced here so far as I know personally and can find out. Women would rather eat than starve! At first a great number of unskilled women lost their jobs. Then the industrial commission adjusted its rulings to suit the occasion. One prominent man has told me that he employed large numbers of unskilled women in an industry which does not require skill; that if the commission had not made adjustment and lowered the minimum wage, he would have been obliged to dismiss the women and replace them with men."

Under a headline, "Law Declared Keeping Women Out of Jobs," the Los Angeles *Times* of July 19, 1932, said: "The minimum wage law, designed to protect women in industry, was described to-day by State Director of Finance Vandegrift as keeping them out of jobs. The finance director said he had been informed by Mrs. Mabel Kinney, chief of industrial welfare, that women are finding it difficult to obtain employment in many lines which they formerly filled, because of the fact that thousands of men are willing to work for less than the minimum wage of $16 as fixed by the law. To meet the situation, Mrs. Kinney has established a new classification under which women may be employed as apprentices in certain work with a minimum scale of $9 per week."

Call to the Third Conference of the Open Door International

For the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker

SENATE HOUSE, PRAGUE, JULY 24-28, 1933

The Open Door International calls upon men and women of all countries to come to Prague in July, 1933, to take part in an international conference to consider the new menace to women's economic status.

The women who won so much in so many countries during the first quarter of this century have still a long struggle before them. Women need to build up an active, living, international women's movement, strong enough to resist the new attack, which is not only national, but international.

The O. D. I. is not opposed to the regulation of industry, or to any legislation limiting the hours and improving the conditions of work, protecting the young from overstrain, forbidding altogether certain dangerous processes and materials, so long as these regulations are applied equally to both sexes.

We are only opposed to the subtle attack upon the status of women as adult human beings, which is being made under the hypocritical mask of humanitarianism. And we are opposed to the mean attempt to thrust married women back to a position of economic dependence on the pretence that it is for their good.

There are many other matters which cannot be discussed in this call. They will be discussed at the conference. Questions will be asked. Misunderstandings will be cleared away —policy outlined—action taken. You must be there.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, President.
ANNA WESTERGAARD, Hon. Treasurer.
WINIFRED LE SUEUR, Hon. Secretary.

All correspondence to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Open Door International, 3, Iddesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S. W. 1, England.

SARAH S. HAGAN of San Francisco, member of the California Labor Council, sheds further light on the California law. "I have always been opposed to the minimum wage law and my position on this kind of legislation for women is very well known here in San Francisco.

"First, let me say that since the United States Supreme Court declared the minimum wage law unconstitutional in Washington, D. C., employers have taken advantage of said decision and have not been paying it. . . . . It appears that the industrial welfare commission has decided to call a meeting in Los Angeles in January for the purpose of discussing the advisability of reducing the $16 minimum wage.

". . . . The industrial welfare commission issued a new order known as Order No. 11a, after a meeting in Los Angeles on June 18, 1932, without the usual notice and publicity, and has undermined and in a large measure destroyed the $16 minimum throughout the State in numerous miscellaneous industries by permitting as many as 65 per cent. of women employees to be employed as 'learners,' with a wage ranging from $9 to $12 a week. Taking advantage of this order, employers have been quick to discharge their experienced help and engage 'learners,' *forcing experienced women* to accept such employment to obtain work at all. This is a demoralizing and pernicious consequence of the making of that order 11a, and our Labor Council protests against its further enforcement.

"I am very much opposed to legislation of this kind for women. The only way that women can obtain their rights is by organization." [The Woman's Party takes no position either for or against minimum wage legislation as such or for or against organization as a means of securing better wages. It does demand that under any method considered desirable, regulations should apply to all workers and not to women alone].

"California has a minimum wage and an 8-hour day law, but neither of them is enforced. Such laws are a handicap to women rather than helpful. . . . . I am opposed to having the State regulate our lives by legislation. They first gave us the franchise and placed us on an equality with men in that respect, but on the other hand, now they say we do not know enough or are not capable of establishing a living wage, hours and conditions under which we must work, hence they make the State our guardian to protect us!"

AN editorial on the minimum wage law for women that appeared in the Los Angeles *Times* on January 13, 1933, said in part: "The industrial commission is perhaps helpless in the matter; it is bound by the law which requires it to base its wage on its calculations of the cost of living, and not on industrial facts. Revision of the law by the Legislature appears to be the only remedy.

"The law has not been an unmixed blessing. This statute deserves the very serious consideration of the Legislature, *since it has not insured a basic living wage to women and minors, but on the contrary has operated to deprive them of any earnings at all. Instead, it forbids them to work and sends them to charity or the streets.*" (Italics mine.)

". . . . It is true the welfare commission has set a hearing for next month on the question of modifying the base rate, and it is also true that the commission last summer took action establishing a minimum rate of $9 for apprentices—action which permits the evasion of the law by establishments willing to take a chance or indulge in subterfuges. The evasion consists in discharging workers after they have served their apprentice term and either hiring others, or rehiring—after a short interval—the same workers as apprentices again. What the courts might say about this device is open to question; at any rate, many employers refuse to adopt it, either for fear of the consequences or because they dislike the idea."

Recently a college employment manager sent to a business women's organization in California the following notice:

"An Important Ruling That Affects You.—Heretofore we have been able to furnish you excellent half-day typing and stenographic services as low as $6 a week. We are now informed by the State Labor Commission that girls over 18 cannot be sent out at less than 40 cents an hour, which means $9.60 a week for half-day workers. To meet the need for real money-saving help thus arising, we suggest:

1. That we send you a girl under 18 (a minor) at 30 cents an hour.

2. That we send you a girl over 18 for four half-days a week.

3. Or, *that we introduce to you our new part-time office service whereby boys,* trained in typing, bookkeeping—and in some cases, shorthand—*will work for $6 to $8 per week.*" Later a change was made to permit students to receive 25 cents an hour for half-day work.

We all remember what happened not so long ago in Massachusetts when the minimum wage commission, which has power to regulate the wages of women, ordered Harvard University to increase the wages of twenty scrubwomen. To be sure, these women were underpaid, but the pay they were getting was better than no pay at all. The women were discharged and replaced by men.

THE United States Supreme Court has declared a minimum wage law for women unconstitutional. In discussing the minimum wage law for women in the District of Columbia in 1923, the United States Supreme Court said:

"We cannot accept the doctrine that women of mature age, sui juris, require or may be subjected to restrictions upon their liberty of contract which could not lawfully be imposed in the case of men under similar circumstances. To do so would be to ignore all the implications to be drawn from the present day trend of legislation, as well as that of common thought and usage, by which woman is accorded emancipation from the old doctrine that she must be given special protection or be subjected to special restraint in her contractual and civil relationship." (Adkins vs. Children's Hospital, 261 U. S. 525, 1923.)

Protectionists evidently entertain a faint hope that this decision may be overthrown, for a recent press release in Syracuse, New York, quotes the head of a civic group as saying: "With the changed personnel of the Supreme Court and the new attitudes which have developed since the depression, our leaders feel that there is now much more possibility that the constitutionality of a minimum wage law for women would be upheld."

Proponents of wage legislation for women are prone to refer to the fact that England and Australia are among the foreign countries having minimum wage laws. As a matter of fact, minimum wage legislation in both of these countries applies to all workers and not to women alone. Even so, women workers are placed at a decided disadvantage owing to the fact that the awards given them are about half those given to men.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, president of the Open Door International, in answer to an inquiry regarding the law in England, writes: "As to minimum wages, these laws apply to women as well as to men, but the trade boards which fix these wages generally fix the minimum rates for men at almost double the minimum rates fixed for women. That means that sometimes, where men and women are doing the same work, there are really two rates, a man's and a woman's—no real minimum rate at all.

"I have drawn the attention of a number of people to this fact, and they have been quite surprised that it was so, believing that we did have real minimum wage rates in this county. The custom is growing in this country, as I understand it is in others, with the growing complexity of legislation, to confer wide powers on subordinate bodies. In this way many inequalities for women are introduced. For example, it is not Parliament which fixes minimum rates, but boards set up under the Act."

Australia's minimum wage law applies to all workers and not to women alone. With one exception, practically all occupations are covered by a State wages board or arbitration court. Again, there seem to be separate rates for women.

A REPORT by Muriel Heagney, trade union organizer, Melbourne, Australia, contained in the record of proceedings of the 1930 Pan-Pacific Conference, states that the rates for women in four States quoted were fixed after inquiry and the enumeration of certain nominal standards by the respective judges. "Mr. Justice Higgins in 1919, in the first clothing trades case, made pronouncements on the basic wage for women which have practically fixed the rate. He declared that the basic wage for a woman should be fixed on the requirements of a single woman without dependents, boarding with strangers, and dependent upon her own earnings. The Judge declared that she should be entitled to a room to herself and a rate which enables her to purchase clothes ready-made. He also enumerated other necessities to which she was entitled, and then awarded £1.15.0, made up as follows:

Board	£1.2.6
Clothing	10.2
Miscellaneous	2.6
	£1.15.0

"The amounts were ridiculous in the lights of the standards enunciated, yet this remains approximately the basis today."

Subsequently, a different judge, while maintaining the standard of the 1919 judgment, slightly increased and readjusted the proportions to make the items appear more correct, whereas in fact the standard laid down by the court could not be purchased for the amounts allotted.

"In the largest group, the clothing trades," said Miss Heagley, "the awards at present existing embody the following important provisions: Basic wage for males, £4.10; for females, £2.10."

To return to the United States, State labor organizations, under the slogan, "Let the women go back home," and leaders of welfare groups, who never have allowed the members of their organizations an opportunity to hear the side of women wage-earners who object to this legislation, are the agitators for special "protective" laws for women.

In the face of the United States Supreme Court decisions and the growing tide of resentment on the part of business and industrial women [only the tiniest percentage of the millions of women wage-earners are members of labor organizations] against further attempts to impose upon them special restrictive laws that are entirely unsuitable to this day and age, it seems very unlikely that State legislatures will give serious consideration to the drive for a minimum wage law for women.

Press Comment

Feminism and The Depression

New Era, Hot Springs, Ark., January 16, 1933.

ONE of the important consequences of the depression is the disaster which has overtaken rugged American Feminism. Just at the hour when it seemed that the women's program of Equal Rights was to be fully realized after a struggle of eighty years, the crisis came to leave the movement stranded, says Mary R. Beard in a recent issue of *Current History.*

American women have been accustomed to a high degree of personal privilege and they are unprepared both physically and mentally to cope with financial calamity. Indeed, they appear to be more stunned than men, judging from the silence among them as to the means of recovery. Women had turned so far from the broad study of life in their effort to emulate the men in the immediate landscape that they failed to foresee that the equality which they coveted might eventually prove to be equality in disaster.

The very transfer in the ownership of wealth to women in recent years in America was in part their misfortune, because property rights became a heavy burden on their hands. Equal pay for equal work, especially in the teaching field, grew meaningless when an entire staff of instructors had to serve without remuneration; an over-supply of teachers in every city raised apparently insoluble problems for the most ardent equalitarian.

An ideal of factory labor on the same terms as men enjoyed signified nothing when neither men nor women could get employment of any sort. Even the battle for the remaining posts lost its heroic qualities to some extent and resembled an atavistic tooth-and-claw struggle in a narrowed and cramped arena.

Instead of the benefits which they had confidently anticipated from economic equality, the Feminists were unexpectedly confronted with defaults on dividends, a rapidly contracting labor market, a new dependence that the older family system of economy never knew and the possibility that the capitalist system of production and distribution in which they had been participating so blithely was overworked and perhaps falling to pieces.

Takes Office As Governor

The News, Austin, Texas, January 17, 1933.

MRS. MIRIAM A. (MA) FERGUSON, most colorful figure of Texas politics, was inaugurated Governor today for the second time in a decade. The retiring Governor, Ross Sterling, oil man and publisher, defeated by Mrs. Ferguson in a bitter campaign, did not attend the ceremonies. It was the first time in State annals that the outgoing executive failed to appear.

News from the Field

Susan B. Anthony Memorial

RESERVATIONS are pouring in for the Susan B. Anthony memorial dinner, to be held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, on February 15, at seven o'clock. Already forty-eight tables, or 384 places, have been reserved.

It is most important that all those who desire to attend the dinner should make their reservations without delay, as the seating capacity in the ballroom is limited. Tickets are one dollar and a half each, and the tables seat eight persons.

Arrangements for the pageant have been completed and it promises to be an unparalleled success.

Reservations for the dinner should, together with check, be sent to Marie W. Presstman, Wyman Park Apartments, Baltimore, Md.

Listen In

IDA I. KLOZE, president of the Business and Professional Council, Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party, will speak on Jury Service for Women on February 17 at 12.15 P. M., Eastern Standard time, over Station WCAO, Baltimore, Maryland, under the auspices of the Maryland State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Eight-Hour Bill Introduced

DELEGATE THOMAS D'ALESANDRO of Baltimore City, on January 24, introduced a bill in the General Assembly of Maryland to limit the number of hours a woman may work to eight in any one day.

Helen Elizabeth Brown, legislative chairman of the Business and Professional Women's Council, has inaugurated a campaign to defeat this measure.

The bill has been referred to the Labor Committee of the House of Delegates, of which Hon. Junius Love is chairman.

Maryland members of the Woman's Party are requested to write Mr. Love, urging that he do all in his power to defeat this bill.

On to the Senate

LENORA SPENCER of Hot Springs, Arkansas, reports that the Equal Inheritance Bill passed the House Judiciary Committee on January 24 with an unanimous recommendation that it do pass the House. It is now up for a third reading and vote, and then on to the Senate!

Congratulates the Governor

IZETTA JEWEL MILLER, distinguished member of the Woman's Party in Schenectady, New York, sends us the following interesting correspondence:

January 16, 1933.

My Dear Governor Lehman — May I send you my thanks and appreciation for your first official act in appointing Mrs. Sarah Wires as Sheriff of Montgomery County.

For many years I have been interested, as you know, in the active participation of women in politics and government, and it is only by their being tested in office that they can grow into a real understanding of their possible contribution to the needs of their communities.

While I do not know Mrs. Wires personally, information has come to me that she will give an honest and earnest service.

Please accept my apreciation of the proof you have given of your desire to reward and encourage the worth-while women of our Party.

Very cordially yours
IZETTA JEWEL MILLER,
Commissioner Public Welfare.

January 20, 1933.

My Dear Commissioner—I am just in receipt of your letter expressing approval of my recent appointment of Mrs. Sarah Wires as Sheriff of Montgomery County, and I want to thank you for letting me know of your approval of the appointment.

With kind regards to you and Professor Miller, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) HERBERT H. LEHMAN.

Austrian Women Elect New President

HOFRÄTIN HERTHA SPRUNG, who has been president of the National Council of Austrian Women for many years, recently resigned her office and has been succeeded by Marie Hoheisel, who was unanimously elected to the presidency.

Hofrätin Sprung will still be a member of the board of this organization.

The National Council of Austrian Women, which is the foremost Feminist organization in Austria, was founded in 1902 by Marianne Hainisch, who is now honorary president.

Mrs. Avery Issues Communication

EDWINA AUSTIN AVERY, chairman of the Government Workers' Council, on January 14, sent out the following letter to all Democratic members of Congress:

My Dear Congressman:

I should like to call your attention to statements by two of the leading women in the ranks of your party today, Mrs. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President-elect, and Miss Frances Perkins, Commissioner of Labor of New York State and prominently mentioned for Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet, giving their views in regard to legislation which denies to married women the right to work.

Eunice Fuller Bernard, whose interview with the coming First Lady appeared in the New York *Times Magazine* of December 4, 1932, asked Mrs. Roosevelt what she thought of the position of the married woman worker in general.

"The principle of denying work to any one who wants to work, married or single, is an obnoxious one," Mrs. Roosevelt replied. "It is a dangerous and terrible thing to do. Frequently a married woman has her parents or other dependents whom she must help support, or she must supplement her husband's income to give her children the opportunities they need. Moreover, no one can judge the subjective value and necessity of work for another person. If during this emergency a married woman voluntarily relinquishes her job to another, it may be a very fine thing for her to do. But her job should not be withheld from her on account of her married state.

"Frequently the married teacher has the benefit of excellent home experience with children to apply to her task. And while I would not go so far as Bernard Shaw and say that only the married should teach, I believe that if they have made right use of their opportunities they have important things to add. Conversely, too, I believe that a married woman teaching should add to rather than detract from her contribution to interest in the life at home."

In an interview with Maxine Davis, published in *McCall's Magazine*, February, 1933, Miss Frances Perkins (in private life Mrs. Paul Wilson) made it clear that the rule adopted by the Federal Government dismissing either husband or wife when both were employed by the Government had aroused her ire.

"This rule is silly," she said. "In laying off employees an employer takes into consideration first seniority, then efficiency. After that he uses individual bases. He endeavors to dispense with those who will suffer least.

"Women very often have individual reasons for working; dependent relatives, debts, children by a previous marriage. I know of many valid reasons why women work. In frequent cases these men and women could not have married at all unless they both kept their jobs."

Respectfully,

.. EDWINA AUSTIN AVERY, *Chairman,*
Government Workers' Council.

Mrs. Cousins Imprisoned

THE many friends of Margaret E. Cousins in the National Woman's Party will be horrified to learn of her imprisonment by the British Government for 12 months for declining to enter into bonds not to speak in public against the present ordinance rule in India. Mrs. Cousins had addressed meetings and denounced the ordinances as tyrannous, and advised people to ignore the ordinance act then being pushed through the central Assembly against the will of the elected representatives of the people of India. The trial in the Madras Police Court attracted a large number of representative members of the Indian public, especially Indian women, for whose uplift Mrs. Cousins has worked for the past seventeen years. Asked by the magistrate what she had to say, Mrs. Cousins, herself the first woman-magistrate to be appointed in India, made the following statement:

"The fact that I am on trial in this court today is no accident. It is the result of 17 years of intimate living and working with my Indian sisters and brothers. In moving freely with them in attempting to do constructive work, I and my husband learned how exploitation and injustice through foreign rule is crushing them down. I have openly stated all along that India should have home rule immediately. I was a co-worker for this for years with Dr. Annie Besant, and took part in the agitation connected with her internment in this cause. I also shared in formulating the Commonwealth of India bill. Government repression of organized congress opinion, the largest representative opinion in India, has become ever more severe since then. I watched it in 1930-31. I reported what I had seen, in New York and Geneva during my visits there in the past 18 months.

"In those centers of international opinion I laid bare the dual game Britain is playing—its pretence of making a Constitution to give India freedom, but its determination to hold tight to everything essential to India's self-government. I showed that its demands for unity and social reforms as necessary to swaraj (self-rule) were conditions such as no country had ever complied with. I proved that, instead of freedom, the government by ordinances was designed to break, if possible, the spirit, ruin the health and cripple the resources of all the people of India who are determined to win the political freedom they want. Representative associations of eighteen countries have deputed me to tell the people here that they 'sympathize with them, and that they denounce the rule of violence now imposed on India,' as the New York protest meeting expressed it. Now when I return to India the ordinances have been turned into law for three years. This is a challenge to every believer in free speech, free political assembly, free press, free picketing, free peaceful self-expression. I adhere to everything I said in public. I reiterate that the ordinance bill and ordinance law should be made inoperative by everyone ignoring them by non-violence defiance. For criticism of proposed constitutions is more needed now than ever, and political programs must be worked up. I would not be a worthy daughter of Ireland if I did not stand shoulder to shoulder with the wonderful women and spirited men of the Congress at this time. Evidently the Government thinks me a valuable ally of the Congress when they priced my freedom by bail at thirty thousand dupees. If it is their intention to strike me dumb for a year, are we to deduce that their new Constitution is going to be so unsatisfactory that I must be locked up for all that time to prevent my criticism of it? Are all political workers to be gagged till this time next year? If this is British justice and democracy, then I am proud to stand here in support of free speech and Indian national freedom, and I am ashamed that English idealism has fallen to the present depths of oppression and suppression."

Maryland Members, Attention!

A HEARING on the Jury Service Bill will be held in the State House, Annapolis, Maryland, Wednesday, February 8, at 2.30 P. M. *Maryland members are urged to come and bring their friends.*

The Democratic Women's Club of Baltimore, whose membership consists of the presidents and leaders of various Democratic clubs in the legislative districts of Baltimore City, at a meeting held at the Rennert Hotel in January 28 passed a resolution emphatically opposing a bill recently introduced in the General Assembly, prescribing an eight-hour day for women. Mrs. Frank Phillips, the president of the club, declared that since no restriction was placed on men, this was not a fair law, and that the proper basis for labor legislation was the nature of the work, and not the sex of the worker. A copy of this resolution was sent to Hon. Junius Love, chairman of the Labor Committee; Thomas M. Harrington, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and to Governor Albert C. Ritchie.

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